Happy Thanksgiving

transporter

For the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Challenge team invites suggestions

The members of the Commissioner's Challenge team invite fellow employees to drop them a line on any issues or problems they want them to discuss.

Send your ideas via interoffice or regular mail to:
Commissioner's Challenge Team
NJDOT
934 Parkway Ave. CN 600
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Challenge Team was selected by Commissioner Tom Downs to rethink the way the Department presently works, identify limitations for achieving future goals and come up with suggestions for organizational improvements.

Downs doubles DBE targets

Commissioner Tom Downs raised the target from 10 to 20 percent participation for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in federally-funded contracts to be advertised by both the NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT and has set a target of 15 percent for 100 percent state-funded jobs.

Downs announced the targets last month before an audience of 350 attending the first Contractors Conference co-sponsored by the NJDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. "The Department will lead the way by increasing the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in jobs we let," he said.

Downs also announced that he was forming a task force within the Transportation Executive Council (TEC) which he chairs to work toward a 10 percent target for TEC member organizations including the Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway.

A recent US Supreme Court decision declared that minority set-asides cannot be mandatory. But Downs said that the NJDOT would encourage contractors to show a good-faith effort in bringing on DBEs as sub-contractors.

New mission statement to guide NJDOT

The newly adopted mission statement spelled out below, will lead the Department of Transportation into 1992 and guide it through the remainder of the decade. It was recently developed by Commissioner Tom Downs and members of the senior staff.

In announcing the statement, Downs said, "The Department has changed a great deal since the last mssion statement was adopted. We wanted to craft a statement that not only reflects the smaller size of the NJDOT, but would lead us through the challenges of the coming years."

Downs said that the statement would also serve as a guide for the work of the Commissioner's Challenge group and the organizational study being done by the senior staff.

The new statement emphasizes the importance of customer service. "From designing a roadway to plowing the snow on the state highways, everything should be done with our customers in mind. The bottom line of NJDOT is to provide even better customer service," Downs said.

Depending on the discipline and the project, NJDOTers may have more than one group of customers. "For example, when a road is in the design stage, consideration must be given to all of the design's customers, not just the motorists using the highway. Our customers could include the people who live along the road, their towns or communities and the NJDOT crews and contractors who construct and maintain the road," said Assistant Commissioner of Design and Right of Way Ken Afferton.

"Our mission is the movement of people and goods with a commitment to safety, excellence, efficiency, the environment and our customers — the citizens of New Jersey."
—NJDOT Employees

Construction and Maintenance, which has a "high front-line customer visibility," will need to look for innovative ways to provide customer satisfaction, according to Assistant Commissioner of Construction and Maintenance Charles

(Continued on page 4)

NJDOT surpasses fast track contract goals

NJDOT units exceeded all of the goals for advertising contracts set earlier this year by Commissioner Tom Downs. There were 81 projects worth an estimated $405.6 million advertised by October 30. The target was 75 projects by Thanksgiving. The Department expects to advertise another six jobs worth approximately $43 million this month.

"Hundreds of design, construction and procurement staff members worked hard to achieve this goal," said Assistant Commissioner of Design and Right of Way Ken Afferton. "We all understood that through our efforts we were putting people to work out there."

"Procurement cut its award cycle turnaround time from 30 days to 10 days, an outstanding performance by staff," said Procurement Director Jack Naiman. "People were focused on the Department's objective."

Besides setting goals to trim internal contract processing time, Downs also urged contractors to streamline their schedules and accelerate job starts.

Included among the projects advertised in October are two contracts to complete the main line of I-287 in Bergen, Passaic and Morris Counties; a slip ramp from the local to express lanes on I-80 in Morris County; resurfacing on Route 46 in Morris County and Route 41 in Burlington County and several local road and bridge projects.

November advertisements are expected to include the I-78 slab replacement and resurfacing project in Hunterdon County and the Route 72 bridge rehabilitation in Ocean County.

Department enhanced by newly licensed P.E.s

A Professional Engineer's (P.E.) license is not a requirement for Department engineers. It doesn't earn more money, a better title or special recognition. To be a licensed P.E. you need a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering as well as four years of engineering experience. So why get licensed?

According to two recently licensed NJDOTers, Principal Engineer Joanne Willey and Assistant Engineer Barbara Fischer, it was the next logical career move. Both women work in Region II Design and are among the most recently licensed P.E.'s in the Department (see list). The similarity ends there.

Joanne Willey checks a signal on a state highway intersection.

Willey came to the Department in 1978. After two years in a Region III survey crew and going to school at night, she received a scholarship from the Federal Highway Administration to obtain her degree as a fulltime student.

With encouragement from Assistant Commissioner for Design and Right of Way Ken Afferton, Willey took a year's leave of absence and received her bachelor of science degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1980.

"I was worried about how my unit would react to my leaving for a year. He told me to go get my degree – and come back." She did and spent another two years in Design Squad Six.

Willey moved to Region II Design in 1983 and is currently on a mobility assignment in Traffic Engineering. "I am working on local traffic signal problems. When I go back to Region II Design, I will be able to understand field problems better and avoid time-consuming changes," she said.

While pregnant with her second child, Willey studied for and passed the New Jersey P.E. test. "I studied for 15 months straight because I didn't want to take it twice," she said.

Barbara Fischer's path to a P.E. license was different. She holds a bachelor of science in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine and came to the Department three years ago after working for a consulting firm.

"I wanted to try government work," she said. "At the consulting firm, I worked on highway and bridge construction jobs, so NJDOT seemed a logical choice," she said, "And it was close to home."

Barbara Fischer reviews part of the I-80/I-287 High Occupancy Vehicle Feasability study.

Hired in 1988 as a Civil Engineer Trainee, Fischer spent her first year in a Design Squad and later transferred to Region II Design. She is currently working on the I-80/287 High Occupancy Vehicle Feasibility Study. "I assist project management and coordinate activities of different offices and consultants," she said. "I like the experience of using both technical and managerial skills."

"Getting the license was always in the plans ," she said. "My husband, Richard, was extremely supportive of me," she said, "He is also licensed. It's a real advantage having him in the same line of work. It gives me someone to bounce ideas off," Fischer said.

Both Willey and Fischer continue their educations. Willey recently applied for a Professional Planner's license. Fischer is currently working on her Master's degree in Transportation at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Other Departmental P.E. recipients

The following is a list of NJDOT employees who have received their Professional Engineers license over the past two years:

Design & Right of Way

Seth Ahiekpor, Prin Engr., Structural Bridge Design; **Shiman Antala**, Sen. Engr., Region III; **Kanagasb Arunachalam**, Sen. Engr., Structural Bridge Design; **Steven Ciapanna**, Engr. Structures, Plans, & Specs.; **Michael Colville**, Prin. Engr., Structural Evaluation; **Alanson Hall**, Prin. Engr., Region IV; **Richard Johnson**, Prin. Engr., Roadway Engr. Services; **Paul Lindberg**, Prin. Engr., Local Aid; **Charles Meidhof**, Prin. Engr., Region IV; **Jagdishkum A. Patel**, Prin. Engr., Structural Bridge Design; **Jayeshkuma M. Patel**, Prin. Engr., Architectural Bridge Design; **Kiran Patel**, Prin. Engr., Region III; **Rajesh C. Patel**, Sen. Engr., Structural Evaluation; **Snehal T. Patel**, Sen. Engr., Region I; **Mark Rollo**, Prin. Engr., Region V; **Ed Scott**, Prin. Engr., Region I; **Kamlesh Shah**, Asst. Engr., Region III; **Vijaykumar G. Thaker**, Prin. Engr., Structural Bridge Design; **Wai Yan Suen**, Sen. Engr., Geotechnical Engineering; **Donna Troiano**, Mgr., Roadway Engineering Services; **George Worth**, Prin. Engr., Region I.

Construction & Maintenance

Emerson Misner, Prin. Engr. Trans., Region III Const., Freehold and **Bob Scancella**, Proj. Engr., Bur. of Materials.

Policy & Planning

Dave Cox, Proj. Engr., Bur. of Trans. Corridor Analysis.

transporter

Governor Jim Florio
Commissioner Tom Downs

The *Transporter* is published for the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. It is written and designed by the Communications Office, Main Office Building, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 530-2121. The *Transporter* is printed by the Department's Print Shop.

Route 18 open from New Brunswick to Wall

Governor Jim Florio and Transportation Commissioner Tom Downs opened the final section of the Route 18 freeway in Eatontown, Ocean Township and Tinton Falls, Monmouth County at a ceremony on October 30.

"The completion of this $75.2-million project reflects one of the Transportation Executive Council's top priorities, improving connections on the existing transportation network, by providing a direct link to Route 36," said Downs.

"This project also closes a major gap in the state highway system and improves access from Route 18 to northeastern Monmouth County as well as local travel between Route 18, Hope Road, Wayside Road and the Garden State Parkway," he added.

In addition, Downs said the project served as "an excellent example of interagency cooperation," with the New Jersey Highway Authority funding and the NJDOT building a new ramp that provides direct access from the Garden State Parkway northbound to Route 18 northbound.

Route 18, built in stages over 20 years, now provides 40 continuous miles of highway between New Brunswick and Wall Township.

The Department's Region III design staff supervised the project designed by Gannet Fleming, Transportation Engineers, Inc., of Millburn. Region III Construction supervised the contractor, Schiavone Construction of Secaucus.

Among the many NJDOTers who contributed to the completion of the project were: **William Cochran**, Community Involvement; **Raymond Carpenter, Larry DelPlato, Thomas Dowd, Glen Gibbs, Michael W. Gross, Paul Hofmann, Brian Londres, Marvin Mogil, Joseph Padalino, John Panico, Lou Stoetzel** and **David Wallis**, Construction & Maintenance; **Louis Amico, Lester Finch, Jeffrey Harvey, Adrian Lincoln, Peter Melocco** and **Allan Smith**, Design & Right of Way; **Martin Biazzo, Joseph Britt, Vincent Cortese, Primitivo Cruz, Anthony Davis, Kelly Grimanis, Luis Hernandez, Jacob Isler, James Jackson, Don Miller** and **Marge Ribeca**, Finance & Administration; **Kurt Aufschneider, Domenick Billera, Robert Cebrick, Miriam Crum, Andras Fekete, Mike Kaminsky, Joseph Sweger, Jerry Thomas** and **Ed Tomaszewski**, Policy & Planning.

DOT TOT has openings

DOT TOT, the Department's child care center, has openings for children from infants to five-year olds. If you would like more information about DOT TOT, call (609) 530–6590.

'Holiday International'

"Holiday International" is the theme for this year's NJDOT holiday reception scheduled for Wednesday, December 18 in the Headquarters Cafeteria.

Employees who wish to work with the committee, staff a table displaying items from their ethnic background or participate in the music program should contact the following:

Musicians: (609) 530-2122

Volunteers: (609) 530-2008

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Appointed

Robert J. Marks has been named Regional Design Engineer for Region I. The 28-year NJDOT veteran was most recently in charge of Region V Design. Marks attended the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel Institute of Technology.

Victor Rice will head an expanded effort within the Office of External Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations to identify problems with the development community and expedite their resolution.

Art Silber, Supervising Engineer, Region I Design, has been appointed Executive Assistant to Deputy Commissioner George Warrington. Silber has been with the Department since 1975.

Allan C. Smith has been named Regional Design Engineer for Region III. Smith, a licensed professional engineer, has 23 years experience with the Department and holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Newark College of Engineering.

Donna Troiano was appointed Manager, Bureau of Roadway Engineering Services. During her 20-year career with the Department she has worked in Research, Environmental Analysis, Urban Planning, Traffic Engineering and Supervising Engineer, Office of Special Projects. Troiano received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Bradley University and is a licensed professional engineer.

Engaged

Susan Gary Purks, Principal Traffic Investigator, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, became engaged to Glenn James on October 13. An April 1992 wedding is planned.

Michelle Rouse, Principal Clerk Typist, Right of Way, recently became engaged to Andre Jordan. An August 1992 wedding is planned.

Married

Dawn Blocking, Accident Record Reviewer, Accident Records, married Zachery Williams on October 21.

Ann Woodruff, Sec. Asst. III, Transportation Systems Planning and **Michael Ferrara**, Assistant Engineer, Bureau of Access and Development Inpact Analysis were married on October 19.

Born

Ferguson Reeves Jr., Regional Design Squad I, and his wife, Karen, are the proud parents of their second child, Michael, born October 24.

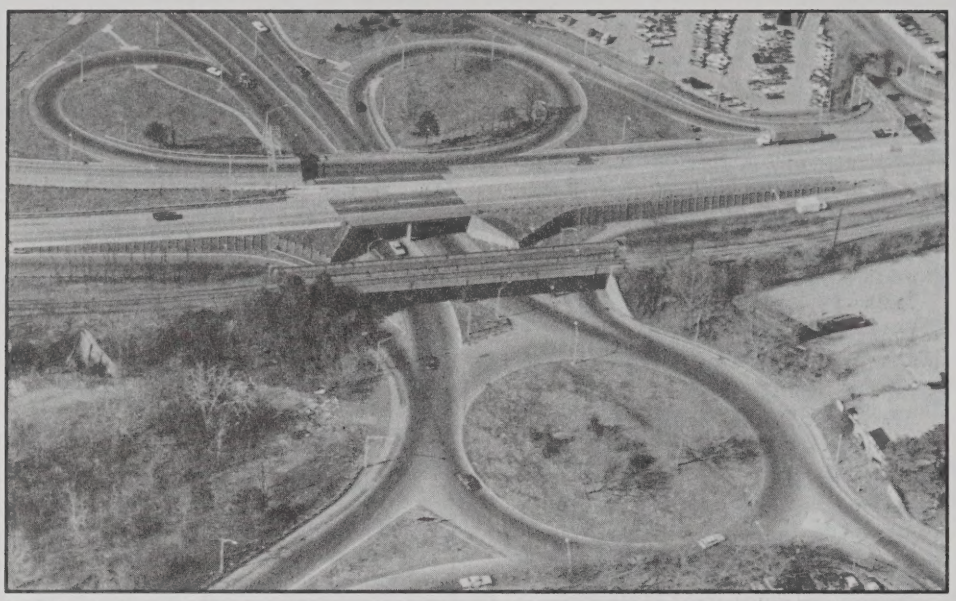
Bruce Abbott, Senior Engineer, C&M, and his wife Joyce recently welcomed their ninth grandchild, Michael Abbott. A tenth is on the way.

Ordained

Thomas Taylor, Accident Record Reviewer, Accident Records, will become an ordained minister at the El Bethel Baptist Church, Trenton, on December 1.

Obituary

Robert H. Bodden, 50 died May 27. He began his career with the Department in 1963 as an Engineering Aide. Bodden retired in September 1988 as a Principal Highway Inspector. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, four brothers and a sister.



Traffic circles all over the state are being targeted for removal. If you can identify this one, please send your answer in writing along with your name and unit to the *Transporter*, Headquarters, Trenton. Please submit your answer by December 17.

Can you identify this 'Moment in History'?

Only 15 NJDOTers correctly identified the sketch of the Route 9 bridge over the Raritan River which was provided by Gene Strycharz, Truck Driver, Stock Room, Trenton.

The correct replies came from Bruce T. Abbott, Construction & Maintenance (C&M); Mark Abbott, Bridge Maintenance; Francis J. Brady, Local Highway Design; Al Brenner, Bridge Maintenance; Blase Cassibba, Northern District Right of Way; Jim Cosgrove Jr., Environmental Services; Gary J. Gronroos, Region III Design; Ray Kauffman, Bridge Maintenance; Richard Kraemer, C & M; Bernard Michaeli, Environmental Services; Julius G. Oroszvary, Project Development; Robert Shu, Structural Engineering; Joe Szucsik, Project Support; Robert R. Wilcox, retired from Project Location and Lenni Williams, Region III Bridge Crew.

New mission statement

(from page one)

Edson. "Programs that involve our customers as partners, such as Adopt-A-Highway, and others that look beyond the traditional way of doing business will help us continue to provide an excellent work product," he said.

As one of the first steps in carrying out the mission statement, Downs challenged all NJDOTers to identify their customers and think about ways that they as individuals can improve service.

Group cleans up Route 30 in Camden

More than 300 participants in the Camden County Clean Communities program of Cherry Hill removed more than 500 bags of litter from a stretch of Route 30 (Admiral Wilson Boulevard) in Camden on November 2. They were assisted by members of NJDOT Crew 410 who set up lane closures and monitored traffic during the pickup.

"Thanks to groups like this one, we expect our Adopt-A-Highway program to be just as successful as those elsewhere," said Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Clint Griggs. To date, 11 organizations have officially adopted portions of state highways.

It took 162,000 hours and cost more than $1 million to remove litter from state highways in fiscal year 1979. In fiscal year 1991 litter pickup took 510,000 hours and cost nearly $7 million.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway program, call Griggs at 609-530-3740.

New Jersey Adopt-A-Highway Program

If your group or organization would like to 'adopt' a section of highway, please call 609-530-3740.

New Jersey
Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, CN 600
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600

Printed on recycled paper

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21